

JAMES KLIEM



Of Wexford, passed away suddenly but peacefully on Friday, April 12, 2024, at the age of 79. He leaves behind his beloved wife of nearly 57 years, Karen and his daughter, Kim Zemmali (Mounir) of Atlanta, and son, James Kliem of Pittsburgh, and three adoring grandchildren, Eric, Lydia and Stefane Zemmali. He is survived by his three brothers, Tom, Ed and John Kliem (Mary), sister-in-law,

Mary Jane and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Jim was born in 1945 as the third child of Nick and Frances (Skocik) Kliem in Hillsville, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Mohawk High School in 1963 and was a star athlete in multiple sports earning him numerous headlines in the local news. The papers called him a "triple-threat" in track and field as a high jumper, discus thrower, and "ace" shot putter who broke his own school records and earned a WPIAL Class B title. He was also known as the "Mohawk blockbuster" playing fullback and defensive end, holding the high school touchdown record from 1963 to the early 2000s. Jim was offered and accepted a full four-year football scholarship to the University of Miami.

James fell instantly in love with a lovely nursing student, Karen Cunningham, when he saw her sitting on a stool at Chiefs Bar. He spun her around and the rest is history. They married on July 8, 1967, and resided in Youngstown and Boardman, Ohio with their two children. His position at General Refractories brought the family to Wexford in 1979. He eventually built his own business as a skilled salesman thanks to his magnetic personality. Jim and Karen joined Wildwood Country Club where they were active members and avid golfers for over 40 years. Klemmie, as he was known by his friends, brought his athleticism to his golf game, and could never be counted out. His creative style and seemingly "magic" shot-making ability when he was in a pinch was also fun-lovingly known at Wildwood as making "a Klemmie."

Jim was a devoted Steelers fan, charismatic storyteller, antique collector and a friend to all. He cherished his loving wife, children, grandchildren and adopted cat, Itty Bitty. He is preceded in death by his parents, in-laws, his oldest brother, Nick Kliem, sisters-in-law, Joanne Kliem (Tom) and Marsha Kliem (Ed), and a beloved cat named Woody that Karen found on the golf course.

A Celebration of Life and Blessing Service followed by a reception will be held at 6pm on Friday, April 19th at the Pittsburgh North Golf Club located at 3800 Bakerstown Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044. All who loved Jim are invited to attend. If you wish to make a donation in his name, we ask that you support First Tee at <https://firstteepittsburgh.org>. Arrangements with **GEORGE A. THOMA FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, Wexford.

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